

27 Salem Ridge North
Salem, CT 06420
March 3, 2021

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: Opposition to CT House Bill HB6355

I oppose the subject bill. While I have many reservations regarding the expansion of the existing "red flag" law, the most significant include the lack of correlation between the proposal and any identified issues, the potential for abuse and the effect of depriving people of constitutionally protected rights.

I have seen no data whatsoever regarding how often the current statute is used and specific cases where expanding it well beyond its' current scope would have prevented any issues.

There are no penalties for false reporting. The expanded definition of "family" can include just about anyone who holds a grudge or wishes to agitate someone they don't see eye to eye with. The potential for abuse without penalty of false reporting is immense.

The process inherently deprives "at risk" people of their right to due process by essentially inverting the process to "guilty until proven innocent".

If someone is a true threat to themselves and others, aren't statutory provisions already in existence to have someone committed? Why would you ONLY confiscate their firearms? Surely, if the threat is credible enough, there are many other means a person could use to cause harm besides firearms. Why would you not remove the person from the situation or issue a restraining order?

Some may view such a proposal as "common sense" and for the benefit of public safety. I suspect, however, many proponents have a different agenda and that this is merely another thinly veiled attack on the second amendment's protection of our inalienable right to self defense.

Sincerely,

John Bernier